

BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE MUD-DAUBERS' NESTS

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ABSTRACT

A study of over 1,000 nests of the yellow mud-dauber, *Sceliphron cementarium* shows that three factors determine the location of nests—protection from rain, light, and enemies. Of these, protection from rain is perhaps the most important. In the matter of construction there appears to be no particular uniformity in the arrangement of their structures. Cells within the same nest may vary in size and shape. Of the number examined, only 41 per cent contained closed cells, 567 contained, besides the host, the prepupae of the blue wasp, *Chalybion caeruleum*. Differences in the prepupae of both are described. A total of 233 closed cells were found to be entirely empty, and 523 cells were provisioned with spiders, with an average of four spiders per cell. The spiders used for provisioning the nests are listed, and also the parasitic and predaceous enemies. Among these a chalcid wasp, *Melittobia chalybii*, is the most important parasite.—Abstracted by Wm. P. Hayes.